

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-10 and 20-21 have been rejected. Claims 11-15 and 17-19 have been allowed. Claims 1-10 and 20-21 have been cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection

Claims 1-10, 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Silver (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,413). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contentions. However, the Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-10, 20 and 21; therefore, the Examiner's rejection is now moot.

The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Yachia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,746,421) in view of Yachia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,293,923) and Matsuura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,682,473). Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contentions. However, the Applicants have cancelled Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 20 and 21; therefore, the Examiner's rejection is now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants again thank the Examiner for the reporting that Claims 11-15 and 17-19 are allowable.

References of Interest

The prior art cited (U.S. Patent Nos. 5,704,353 to Kalb et al. and 6,398,718 to Yachia et al.), and not relied upon, is believed to comprise general information that does not render the present application anticipated or obvious.

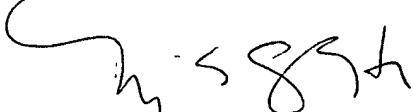
Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Response places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Response is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated above.

Respectfully submitted,

TOBIN CARBERRY O'MALLEY RILEY SELINGER, P.C.

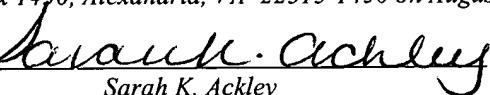


Dated: August 21, 2006 Nicole E. Coppes-Gathy
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NEC:ska

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 21, 2006.

Signed 
Sarah K. Ackley